United States Department of Justice United States Attorney's Office District of Minnesota

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News Release

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Iowa Man Charged with Federal Sex Crime

Minneapolis - The United States Attorney's Office has filed a criminal complaint against Richard Alan Lang, age 44, of Iowa. Lang was arrested yesterday by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and charged earlier today with traveling across state lines to engage in illicit sexual conduct with a minor.

According to the complaint in this case, Lang initiated Internet conversations with an undercover officer during February and March of this year. During those conversations, Lang allegedly discussed engaging in sexual activity with that officer, who he believed was a fourteenyear-old boy. Some of those conversations were extremely sexually graphic. Subsequently, Lang allegedly suggested and planned a meeting with the "boy" for March 14, 2007, in Robbinsdale, Minnesota. According to the complaint, Lang's purpose for the meeting was to teach the "boy" about sex through engaging in sexual activity with him.

When Lang arrived for that scheduled meeting at a popular children's restaurant in Robbinsdale, he was arrested by law enforcement officers.

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This case is the result of an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Minnesota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, and the Robbinsdale Police Department. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Tracy T. Braun. The case is part of Project Safe Childhood, a multi-jurisdictional effort by law enforcement and community groups to make the Internet safe for children.

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A complaint is a charging document. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent of the charges set forth in that document until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty of them at trial.